



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division
1111 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland
Office: (410) 653.4500 / Fax: (410) 653.4036

BULLETIN

LD-HQL-20-002

July 28, 2020

Handgun Qualification License Virtual Training (**AMENDED**) and E-Mails

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many processes and procedures associated with group gatherings. In an effort to better serve the citizens of Maryland, and taking into consideration the health and safety of our partner Qualified Handgun Instructors (QHIs) and customers, the Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division (MDSPLD), has re-evaluated the classroom instruction requirement for the Handgun Qualification License (HQL) training. Effective immediately, the MDSPLD is approving HQL classroom training, via two-way virtual platforms. This change in policy does not alleviate any of the HQL training requirements set below.

QHIs electing to participate in virtual HQL training will require a real time, bi-directional audio and visual connection between the QHI and the students. Pre-recorded presentations of any form are not acceptable.

The Firearms Safety Training Course must be instructed by a QHI and shall consist of a minimum of 4 hours of instruction, and include the following minimum curricula:

1. State Firearm Law: Overview of the State firearm laws, including discussion of what constitutes a regulated firearm, how to properly purchase or transfer a firearm, where allowed to carry or transport a firearm, when necessary to possess a carry permit, who is prohibited from possessing firearms and State law relating to minors, permissible levels of force and use of deadly force.
2. Home Firearm Safety: Overview of handgun and firearm safety in the home, including discussion of access to minors, locking and storing of firearms and use of safety devices, such as secure lock boxes.
3. Handgun Mechanisms and Operation: Overview of the proper operation and safe handling of a handgun, including cleaning and maintenance, the loading and unloading of ammunition and the differences between revolvers and semi-automatic handguns.

Alert Bulletins are a service of the Maryland Department of State Police. The content of this document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Any request for disclosure of this document, or the information contained herein, should be referred to either the originator of the Bulletin, or the Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division, 410.653.4500.



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

4. Operation and Handling Demonstration: Orientation component that demonstrates the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm, to include a "live fire" component, in which the applicant safely shoots the weapon. An applicant may not be required to fire in excess of 15 yards during qualifications.

QHIs are also reminded that the individual student/applicant's HQL account must be associated with the individual student/applicant's personal email address.

For further information on the HQL, please visit our website by clicking the following link: [Handgun Qualification License](#). You can also contact us, via email, at: msh.hql@maryland.gov.

Alert Bulletins are a service of the Maryland Department of State Police. The content of this document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Any request for disclosure of this document, or the information contained herein, should be referred to either the originator of the Bulletin, or the Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division, 410.653.4500.